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In reply, please refer to:
File: EHA/HEER Office

TO: Interested Parties 2005-292-RB

FROM: Keith Kawaoka, Manager 
Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office

DATE: June 1, 2005

SUBJECT: May 2005 Update to Environmental Action Levels ("EALs") Technical Document

The Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) office has prepared a technical document entitled *Screening For Environmental Concerns at Sites With Contaminated Soil and Groundwater* (Interim Final - May 2005). Previous drafts of the document (December 2003, January 2005) were revised to reflect comments provided by the general public and agency staff. Environmental Action Levels ("EALs") presented in the May 2005 document replace and take precedence over action levels presented in the 1995 HDOH document *Risk-Based Corrective Action and Decision Making at Sites With Contaminated Soil and Groundwater* (December, 1995; revised June, 1996). The EALs also replace action levels presented in the HEER office *Technical Guidance Manual* (based on the 1995/1996 document noted above). The May 2005 EALs are currently intended for use at sites overseen by the HEER office. Use of the updated EALs in "site-specific" risk assessments at Leaking Underground Storage Tank sites overseen by the Office of Solid and Hazardous Waste is also being reviewed. Contact that office for more information.

The EAL document is intended to help expedite the identification of potential environmental concerns at sites with contaminated soil and groundwater and expedite the cleanup and redevelopment of these properties. As an alternative to preparing a detailed, baseline environmental risk assessment, soil, groundwater and other data collected at a site can be directly compared to the EALs presented in the document and the need for additional actions determined. This approach has been shown to be especially effective and efficient at sites with limited or relatively straightforward types of contamination, where the preparation of a more formal risk assessment may not be warranted or feasible due to time and cost constraints. HEER office staff overseeing work at a specific site should be contacted prior to use of this document in order to ensure that the document is applicable to the site and that the user has the most up-to-date version available.

The EAL document is not intended to establish policy or regulation. Use of the document and associated EALs is entirely optional on the part of the party responsible for the investigation and cleanup of a contaminated site. Reference to the updated EALs will generally not be needed at

sites where final cleanup levels have already been reviewed and approved by the HEER office, including sites that have already been closed. For sites where investigation is currently underway, referral to the updated EALs is strongly recommended.

The EAL document will be revised and updated on a regular basis. Comments and suggestions from the general public are welcome at any time. Updates will be posted to this website and notification sent to persons on the EAL mailing list. Workshops to present and discuss the EALs will also be held periodically. To provide comments or be included on the mailing list for updates and workshop announcements, please contact:

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